



NEWS RELEASE

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) – 1300 MILITARY ROAD – LINCOLN, NE 68508-1090

Joint Information Center

September 22, 2011, 11:30 CDT

NEMA Media Contact:

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NEW NEMA UPDATE

NEMA Flood Response and Recovery Continues

The State Emergency Operations Center at **Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)** continues its support of flood response along the Missouri and Platte rivers by providing assistance to local emergency management on a 24-hour basis and working with federal agencies in the recovery process.

Road condition questions can be directed to 511. Information is also available online at: <http://www.511.nebraska.gov/atis/html/index.html>. Emergency management inquiries should to NEMA at (402) 471-7421 or online at: www.nema.nebraska.gov Click on the Quick Links for Flooding Information.

As of Wednesday, Sept. 21 there has been \$2.4 million awarded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency for individual assistance for the flooding disaster that occurred from May 24 to Aug. 1 in 12 counties.

More than 929 registrations have been filed and 542 household were approved for \$1.4 million. Households received other needs assistance were 52 for a total of \$31,000. The Small Business Administration has approved \$980,000 for home and business loans.

County /Registrations		County /Registrations	
Boyd,	34	Lincoln	33
Burt	166	Nemaha	5
Cass	61	Richardson	14
Dakota	141	Sarpy	40
Dixon	25	Washington	177
Douglas	114	Other	6
Knox	113		

Total Cumulative Disaster Recovery Center Visits: 646. The last day to register for FEMA assistance is Oct. 11, 2011.



NEW DHHS UPDATE

DHHS Contact:

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Flooded Residents Face Battle with Mold

Lincoln— Residents of flooded farms and communities face the possibility of mold in homes and other buildings exposed to floodwaters, according to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Mold will grow on materials that stay wet for 48 hours or longer.

“Flooding can lead to mold growth,” said Sara Morgan, Indoor Air Quality program manager. “Not only is it damaging to property, mold can make cleaning up after a flood risky.”

The presence of mold can cause health concerns for everyone exposed to it, especially for people with asthma, the elderly, babies and those with compromised immune systems, Morgan said.

Mold exposure can cause symptoms like coughing, headache, a rash or a runny, blocked or stuffy nose. Exposure to large amounts of mold may cause more severe symptoms.

People with these symptoms should stay out of the contaminated area and get fresh air. Typically, symptoms caused by mold exposure will abate with time away from the source of exposure. If symptoms persist, people should see their doctor.

The Department makes these recommendations for residents returning to flooded homes:

- Dry it out as soon as you can. Open windows and doors; use dehumidifiers and fans.
- Wear personal protection – an N-95 face mask at a minimum, but a respirator or HEPA-rated mask is even better. These masks can be purchased at hardware stores.
- Wear rubber gloves and keep your skin covered. Wear clothes you don't mind throwing away if they get dirty.
- Be careful when cleaning items. Use diluted bleach, wear personal protection, and make sure to ventilate the area. Remember, bleach can be a toxic material. Use a 10 percent solution—9 parts water to one part bleach.
- Throw away most contaminated items, especially anything that is porous, including carpeting, drywall and insulation. "When in doubt, throw it out," Morgan said.
- Get rid of drywall and insulation at least 12 inches above the water stain line. Mold can infiltrate material above the water line.

Questions can be directed to a local health department (<http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/puh/oph/lhd.htm>), county extension agent (<http://www.extension.unl.edu/officeslist>), or the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Indoor Air Quality Program, at (402) 471-8320. A good website with information about mold is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's at <http://epa.gov/mold/>.

NO CHANGES Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) Recommended Alternate Routes:

To and from Kansas: use **Highway 77** out of Lincoln and **Highway 81** out of York.

Across Nebraska: I-80 is expected to remain a safe and dry route.

Strongly suggested route: If you are west of York on I-80 and intend to travel north on I-29 at Council Bluffs, consider taking **Highway 81** north at York to I-90 in South Dakota thus avoiding detour traffic in Iowa.

Avoid Highway 75 because of existing construction projects, lane closures and flood mitigation operations.

Avoid Highway 77 north of Lincoln because of delays due to bridge construction near Fremont.

NO CHANGES Road Closures *Call 511 or check online at www.roads.ne.gov/flood/ or*

Highway 2 is closed from Nebraska City east into Iowa due to water covering the road on the Iowa side.

Highway 175 at the Decatur Missouri River Crossing to Iowa is closed due to erosion of the bridge embankment on the Iowa side. Officials will evaluate the erosion and determine if work can be done to enable the bridge to reopen.

Highway 136 is closed from Brownville east into Missouri due to water topping a levee on the Missouri side.

Highway 159 is closed from Rulo as it runs east into Missouri. Closure is due to levee break on the Missouri side of Big Lake which resulted in water over the road on the Missouri side.

I-680 into Iowa is closed due to I-680 in Iowa being covered by flood waters.

Disaster Recovery Center Schedule

BOYD COUNTY:

Spencer Fire Department Meeting Room,
100 E. Main St., Spencer

- Thursday, Sept. 22, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

NEMAHA COUNTY:

City Hall, 1101 J St., Auburn

- Friday, Sept. 23, 1 to 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Sept. 24, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Monday, Sept. 26, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

RICHARDSON COUNTY:

Senior Center, 221 W. 16th St., Fall City

- Thursday, Sept. 22, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 27, 1 to 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 28, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

WASHINGTON COUNTY:

Courthouse, 1555 Colfax St., Blair

- Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., until further notice

UPDATED River Levels — The National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service lists four flood stages: Major, Moderate, Flood and Action Stages. **Sites at Action Stage or above are:**

North Platte River

Lewellen, 7.89 feet – at Flood Stage which is 7.5 to 8.5 feet

North Platte, 6.57 feet – at Major Flood Stage which is 6.4 feet and above

Platte River

Brady, 6.51 feet – at Action Stage which is 6 to 7.5 feet

Missouri River

Verdel, 24.42 feet – is at Flood Stage which is 24 to 25 feet,

Niobrara, 22.84 feet – is at Flood Stage which is 22 to 23 feet

Blair, 25.55 feet – is at Action Stage which is 25.5 to 26.5 feet

Omaha, 27.5 feet – is at Action Stage which is 27 to 29 feet

Plattsmouth, 27.698 feet – is at Flood Stage which is 26 to 31 feet

Nebraska City, 19.23 feet – is at Flood Stage which is 18 to 23 feet

Brownville, 34.49 feet – is at Flood Stage which is 33 to 37 feet

Rulo, 20.17 feet – is at Flood Stage which is 17 to 21 feet



[List of County Emergency Managers](#)

[List of Nebraska Local Health Departments](#)

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MEDIA ADVISORY: The next Joint Information Center update is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 26.